



EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EV 570997856 US

PATENT APPLICATION  
Docket No. 16096.11

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re application of:

Harald Schmidt

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Serial No.: 10/533,996

FEB 27 2006

) Art Unit

Filed: May 4, 2005

TC 1700

) 1731

Confirmation No.: 2594

For: FILTER ELEMENT

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Customer No.: 022913

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of

which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each listed non U.S. patent or publication reference or relevant portion thereof is also enclosed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c), all English translations within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) of each non-English reference, if any, are also enclosed.

Please note that the following foreign patent documents correspond to U.S. counterparts, also listed in Form PTO-1449, as set forth below:

<u>Foreign Patents</u>	<u>U.S. Counterparts</u>
DE 38 17 889	5,523,036
DE 195 36 505	6,062,228
EP 0 541 050	5,516,815
EP 0 614 620	5,954,059
EP 0 658 320	5,657,772
EP 0 777 977	5,709,227
EP 0 904 705	5,706,833 and 5,947,127

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN M. GYNN  
Attorney for Applicants  
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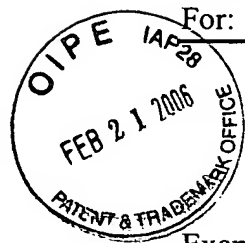
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATIONS MADE BY APPLICANTU.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initial*	Patent Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
___ 1	5,497,793	03/12/96	Kubica	131	331	09/22/93
___ 2	5,516,815	05/14/96	Buehler et al.	523	128	02/17/95
___ 3	5,523,036	06/04/96	Luke et al.	264	45.3	04/22/92
___ 4	5,657,772	08/19/97	Duke et al.	131	334	12/13/94
___ 5	5,706,833	01/13/98	Tsugaya et al.	131	332	07/12/94
___ 6	5,709,227	01/20/98	Arzonico et al.	131	341	12/05/95
___ 7	5,954,059	09/21/99	Beven et al.	131	332	03/08/94
___ 8	5,947,127	09/07/99	Tsugaya et al.	131	332	05/16/97
___ 9	6,062,228	05/16/00	Loercks et al.	131	332	09/27/96

Foreign Patent Documents

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office
___ 10	DE 1 161 447	Jan. 16, 1964	Germany
___ 11	DE 29 47 971	June 12, 1980	Germany
___ 12	DE 33 11 903	Oct. 13, 1983	Germany
___ 13	DE 38 17 889	Dec. 15, 1988	Germany
___ 14	DE 195 36 505	Apr. 10, 1997	Germany

Examiner:

Date Considered:

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



Applicant: Harald Schmidt  
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____ 15	DE 694 09 590	Sep. 17, 1998	Germany
____ 16	DE 694 17 366	Aug. 26, 1999	Germany
____ 17	EP 0 541 050	May 12, 1993	EPO
____ 18	EP 0 614 620	Sep. 14, 1994	EPO
____ 19	EP 0 658 320	Jun. 21, 1995	EPO
____ 20	EP 0 777 977	Jun. 11, 1997	EPO
____ 21	EP 0 861 036	Sep. 2, 1998	EPO
____ 22	EP 0 904 705	Mar. 31, 1999	EPO

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### References Cited by Applicants

While the filing of Information Disclosure Statements is voluntary, the procedure is governed by the guidelines of Section 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. To be considered a proper Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 shall be accompanied by a copy of each listed patent or publication or other item of information and a translation of the pertinent portions of foreign documents (if an existing translation is readily available to the applicant), an explanation of relevance of each reference not in the English language, and should be submitted in a timely manner as set out in MPEP Sec. 609.

Examiners will consider all citations submitted in conformance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and MPEP Sec. 609 and place their initials adjacent the citations in the spaces provided on this form. Examiners will also initial citations not in conformance with the guidelines which may have been considered. A reference may be considered by the Examiner for any reason whether or not the citation is in full conformance with the guidelines. A line will be drawn through a citation if it is not in conformance with the guidelines AND has not been considered. A copy of the submitted form, as reviewed by the Examiner, will be returned to the applicant with the next communication. The original of the form will be entered into the application file.

Each citation initialed by the Examiner will be printed on the issued patent in the same manner as references cited by the Examiner on Form PTO-892.

The reference designations "A1," "A2," etc. (referring to Applicant's reference 1, Applicant's reference 2, etc.) will be used by the Examiner in the same manner as Examiner's reference designations "A," "B," "C," etc. on Office Action Form PTO-1142.

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Examiner:

Date Considered:

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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## TRANSMITTAL FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

### MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

☒ Form PTO-1449 list of twenty-two (22) references submitted for consideration.

☒ Legible copies of all foreign and publication references submitted for consideration.

X This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the later of either three (3) months following the filing date or the mailing of a first Office Action. Accordingly, no materials other than those listed above are enclosed.

X In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Promptness Certification meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3178 of the undersigned.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN M. GYNN  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 36,153  
Customer No. 022913



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

I hereby certify that following documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date of deposit: February 21, 2006.

- Information Disclosure Statement
- Form PTO-1449 listing twenty-two (22) references
- Legible copies of foreign and publication references
- Transmittal Letter
- Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

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